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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Attached hereto is a replacement sheet including Figure 1, which replaces the originally filed sheet including Figure 1. Figure 1 is changed to move the reference character "10" to more generally designate the entire system, which includes referenced elements 12, 16, 18 and 34 and depicted connections therebetween. It is respectfully submitted that this drawing change complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(r)(1), and that one of ordinary skill in the art would readily appreciate from Figure 1 and the description thereof in the specification, that the reference "10" designates the entire system depicted in this figure. The Examiner is respectfully requested to approve this drawing change.

Attachment: One (1) Replacement Sheet

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REMARKS

By way of the present response, claims 1-30 are amended and new claims 31-39 are added. Claims 1-39 currently are pending. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the outstanding office action is respectfully requested.

The independent claims are amended to further define the claimed "device" as a "peripheral device." Support for this amendment can be found, for example, in paragraphs 0002, 0012 and 0013, and in Figure 1 in the above-identified patent application. For instance, the specification describes a number of exemplary network peripheral devices, such as printing devices, copy machines and facsimile machines.

Also, claims 1 and 11 are amended to recite "requesting, with a peripheral device, an identity of at least one supplier for at least one consumable for the peripheral device," "receiving information identifying at least one supplier for the at least one consumable based on the request," and "indicating, with the peripheral device, the identified at least one supplier." Claim 21 is amended to recite "a requesting system that requests, with a peripheral device, an identity of at least one supplier for the at least one consumable for the peripheral device," "a receiving system that receives information identifying at least one supplier for the at least one consumable based on the request," and "an indication system, with the peripheral device, that indicates the identified at least one supplier." Support for these features is found throughout the original disclosure, for example, in paragraphs 0018 and 0027-0029, Figures 1-3, and in the original claims. Amendments to the dependent claims conform these claims to the subject matter recited in the amended independent claims. Other changes to the claims improve readability, and new dependent claims 31-39 are added to round out coverage.

The Office objected to the drawings because system designated as "10" in Figure 1 is allegedly labeled ambiguously. While applicants disagree that any ambiguity exists in the depiction of system 10, especially when reading the description thereof starting at paragraph 0011 of the specification, Applicants submit herewith a drawing change in which the arrowed reference 10 is positioned to more generally indicate the entire depicted system. It is respectfully submitted that those of ordinary skill in the art would readily appreciate that the reference for system 10 shown in Figure 1 of the replacement drawing

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clearly indicates the entire system shown, which includes elements 12, 16, 18 and 34. Applicants request the Examiner to approve this drawing change.

The Office also objected to claim 30 for including a typographical error. In response, claim 30 is amended such that it now depends from claim 29, as the Examiner correctly assumes on page 3 of the action. It is respectfully submitted this amendment overcomes the objection to claim 30.

Claims 1-4, 7-9, 11-14, 17-19, 21-24, and 27-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Benjamin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,113,208). With respect to independent claims 1, 11 and 21, the Office contends that the Benjamin et al patent discloses in column 4, lines 20-39, requesting an identity of at least one supplier for at least one consumable for a device, identifying the at least one supplier for the at least one consumable based on the request, and displaying with the device the identified at least one supplier. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the Benjamin et al. patent does not disclose requesting, with a peripheral device, an identity of at least one supplier for at least one consumable for the peripheral device, receiving information identifying at least one supplier for the at least one consumable based on the request, and indicating, with the peripheral device, the identified at least one supplier, as set forth in amended independent claims 1 and 11. It is respectfully submitted that Benjamin et al. likewise does not describe a requesting system, a receiving system and an indicating system as set forth in amended independent claim 21. Differences between the system and methods described in the Benjamin et al. patent and the amended claims are now described in detail.

The Benjamin et al. patent describes a system including computer/display arrangement (or "host processor") that connects to a inkjet printer apparatus to provide both control and data signals therefore (see, the abstract, lines 2-4, column 2, lines 17-19, column 3, lines 6-7, and Figures 2-3). The printer includes a microprocessor that monitors a level of the ink in an ink cartridge using an ink level monitor built into the cartridge (column 4, lines 24-27). Upon the occurrence of a low ink indication, the printer microprocessor causes the display of the computer/host processor to display a low ink warning and a reorder part number (column 4, lines 27-30). According to Benjamin et al., the user can click on the reorder part number indicated on display screen 44 to cause the printer 1 to output an order

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sheet with all of the necessary details to accomplish an order of a replacement ink cartridge (column 4, lines 30-34). Benjamin et al. also describes automatically accessing an Internet website to enable entry of an immediate order. When accessing the Internet, the computer prompts the user for his/her zip code and then provides information regarding a nearest dealer to contact (column 4, lines 36-40).

Thus, the Benjamin et al. system appears use a computer/display arrangement to request an identity of at least one Internet-based supplier for at least one consumable. That is, the request for a web page is not performed by way of a peripheral device (e.g., the printer of the Benjamin et al. system). The Benjamin et al. patent, therefore, does not disclose the claimed subject matter including “requesting, with a peripheral device, an identity of at least one supplier for at least one consumable ...,” as set forth in claims 1 and 11, and the claimed features of “a requesting system that requests, with a peripheral device, an identity of at least one supplier ...,” recited in claim 21. Consequently, the Benjamin et al. patent also fails to disclose features of “receiving information identifying at least one supplier for the at least one consumable based on the request” and “indicating, with the peripheral device, the identified at least one supplier,” as set forth in the context of claims 1 and 11, and similar subject matter set forth in the context the a system in claim 21.

For at least these reasons, the Benjamin et al. patent does not disclose the combination of features recited in independent claims 1, 11 and 21. Accordingly, claims 1, 11 and 21 are considered allowable. Claims 2-4, 7-9 12-14, 17-19, 22-24 and 27-29 depend from one of allowable claims 1, 11 and 21, and are therefore allowable at least for the above stated reasons, and further for the additional features recited.

The action also includes a rejection of claims 5, 6, 10, 15, 16, 20, 25, 26 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being unpatentable over Benjamin et al in view of Office Depot's archived website. However, the archived website of Office Depot, which is relied upon for teaching a supplier providing information involving available quantity, price, and a way of purchasing at least one consumable, does not remedy the shortcomings of Benjamin et al. pointed out above. For instance, the printout of the Office Depot web page provided with the action does not teach or suggest that an identity of at least one supplier of at least one consumable for a peripheral device is requested with a peripheral device. Hence, even if one

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were to consider, for the sake of argument, that one of ordinary skill in the art would have been led to modify the system of Benjamin et al. to include receiving information concerning prices and available quantity of a consumable, as proposed in the action, such a hypothetical combination would not have taught or suggested what is recited in the amended claims.

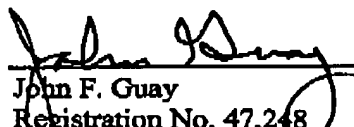
As neither the Benjamin et al. patent nor the archived Office Depot web page printout teach or suggest the presently claimed invention, they also fail to provide the advantageous features facilitated by the presently claimed subject matter. For example, when a peripheral device, such as a printer, indicates that a consumable is running low or has run out, a user at the peripheral device can simply press a button (e.g., a physical button on the device or a button displayed on touch screen indicator) *at the peripheral device location* to easily obtain information regarding suppliers, availability etc. of the consumable.

Additionally, after information is obtained by the peripheral device, the information can be indicated to the user, for example, by displaying it on a display device of the peripheral and/or by printing out the information at the peripheral. These features add ease and flexibility in the process of purchasing consumables for network peripheral devices, stand alone peripheral devices accessible to a communications network, and peripheral devices that allow walk-up use. The printer apparatus of Benjamin et al., by contrast, cannot provide for such advantages because it does not include a connection to a communications network

In view of all of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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